

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 148838

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PPDC, PEPR, AG

SUBJECT: BOUMEDIENE LETTER TO PRESIDENT CARTER

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1. DURING HIS MEETING WITH SECRETARY VANCE ON JUNE 10,
ALGERIAN FOREIGN MINISTER BOUTEFLIKA DELIVERED LETTER IN
ARABIC DATED MAY 20 ALONG WITH ENGLISH TRANSLATION FROM
PRESIDENT BOUMEDIENE TO PRESIDENT CARTER. TEXT OF
ALGERIAN ENGLISH TRANSLATION OF LETTER FOLLOWS.

2. BEGIN TEXT: DEAR MR. PRESIDENT AND DEAR FRIEND,
FAITHFUL TO THE TRADITIONAL CONSULTATION THAT HAS ALWAYS
PREVAILED BETWEEN OUR COUNTRIES, I WOULD LIKE TO REFER YOU
TO THE PROBLEMS FACING OUR REGION AND ESPECIALLY TO POINT
OUT THE CONCERN ARISING FROM THE RECENT DETERIORATION OF
THE SITUATION IN THE WESTERN SAHARA.

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IN FACT, THE FUTURE OF THIS TERRITORY, AS OF ALL OTHER
COLONIZED TERRITORIES, HAS ALWAYS DEPENDED ON THE DECOLONI-
ZATION DOCTRINE AS DEFINED BY THE UNITED NATIONS ORGANIZA-
TION AND CONTAINED IN RESOLUTION 1514 (XV) ON THE GRANTING
OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIZED COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES.

IT IS INDEED ON THIS BASIS THAT THE ISSUE HAS BEEN CONSTANTLY CONSIDERED WITHIN BOTH INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND ALL DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE RELEVANT BODIES, WHETHER THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY, THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY, THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT OR THE INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE, PROVIDE FOR THE SETTLEMENT OF THE ISSUE THROUGH FREE CONSULTATION OF THE SAHRAOUI PEOPLE. THE ACCEPTANCE OF THIS PROCESS BY THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY, INCLUDING THE NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES AND THE ADMINISTRATION IN POWER ITSELF, GAVE RISE TO THE HOPE THAT THE SAHRAOUI PEOPLE, LIKE ALL OTHERS UNDER COLONIAL DOMINATION, WAS AT LAST GOING TO BE ABLE TO EXERCISE FREELY ITS RIGHT TO SELF-DETERMINATION.

BUT THE INVASION OF THE SAHRAOUI TERRITORY BY THE ARMED FORCES OF TWO NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES, MOROCCO AND MAURITANIA, APART FROM BEING A FLAGRANT VIOLATION OF A UNANIMOUSLY RECOGNIZED RIGHT, WAS A DANGEROUS DEVIATION FROM THE COURSE OF DECOLONIZATION AND PROVOKED TENSION IN THE NORTHWESTERN PART OF AFRICA. IN THIS WAY THE GOVERNMENTS OF MOROCCO AND MAURITANIA, BY REJECTING THE COMMITMENTS SOLEMNLY ENTERED INTO WITH THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY, TOOK ON A HEAVY RESPONSIBILITY IN THE NEW COLONIAL WAR WAGED AGAINST THE SAHRAOUI PEOPLE, THREATENING THE STABILITY, SECURITY AND INDEPENDENCE OF

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THE COUNTRIES OF THE REGION.

IT IS NOW CLEAR THAT DESPITE THE CONSIDERABLE MILITARY MACHINERY MOBILIZED BY ITS AGGRESSORS TO BREAK DOWN ITS DETERMINATION TO RESIST, THE SAHRAOUI PEOPLE HAS, THROUGH ITS UNRELENTING FIGHT AND ENORMOUS SACRIFICES, SUCCEEDED IN BRINGING TO NOUGHT THE JOINT MOROCCAN AND MAURITANIAN POLICY OF EXPANSION AND HEGEMONY. THUS, THE FAILURE OF THE FAIT ACCOMPLI POLICY STRESSES MORE THAN EVER HOW NECESSARY AND URGENT A PEACEFUL SOLUTION IS, IN CONFORMITY WITH THE RIGHT OF PEOPLES AND THE REQUIREMENTS OF SECURITY, INDEPENDENCE AND COOPERATION OF ALL THE COUNTRIES IN THE REGION.

IT WAS PRECISELY IN THIS INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL CONTEXT WHILE ALL EFFORTS, ESPECIALLY THOSE OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY, WERE CONVERGING TO SEEK A FORMULA RESPONDING TO THE PRINCIPLES AND OBJECTIVES OF THE UNITED NATIONS CHARTER, THAT DIRECT INTERVENTION AGAINST THE SAHRAOUI PEOPLE BY FRENCH ARMED FORCES FALSIFIED A DECOLONIZATION ISSUE BY GIVING IT THE DIMENSIONS AND SERIOUSNESS OF AN OPERATION SERVING A STRATEGY OF

COLONIAL RE-CONQUEST.

SUPPORT THAT FRANCE HAS CONTINUALLY GIVEN TO MOROCCO AND MAURITANIA, WHILE OFFICIALLY PROCLAIMING ITS NEUTRALITY IN THE CONFLICT AND RECOGNIZING THE SAHRAOUI PEOPLE'S RIGHT TO SELF-DETERMINATION, THE DIRECT MILITARY COMMITMENT OF FRENCH ARMED FORCES IN THE WESTERN SAHARA MARKS A NEW LEVEL IN ESCALATION AND LAYS BARE AGGRESSIVE DESIGNS ON THE FREEDOM OF THE PEOPLES AND THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE COUNTRIES OF THE REGION.

BY INTERVENING IN AN ISSUE WHICH UNO AND OAU ARE ENTITLED TO DEAL WITH, AND FOR WHICH BOTH ORGANIZATIONS ARE ACTIVELY
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SEEKING SETTLEMENT, FRANCE IS INFRINGING AGAINST ITS OBLIGATIONS AS A PERMANENT MEMBER OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL, IS DELIBERATELY STIRRING UP A HOTBED OF TENSION IN A SENSITIVE AREA OF AFRICA AND THE MEDITERRANEAN AND IS POSTPONING THE PROSPECTS OF A JUST AND LASTING SOLUTION OF THE WESTERN SAHARA ISSUE.

ON THE BASIS OF THE FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN OUR TWO PEOPLES, I HAVE TAKEN THE LIBERTY OF CALLING TO YOUR ATTENTION THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE SITUATION IN OUR REGION AND THE SUBSTANTIAL THREATS TO PEACE AND SECURITY ARISING FROM THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE WESTERN SAHARA ISSUE, WHERE THE USE OF FORCE IS HINDERING THE NORMAL COURSE OF DECOLONIZATION OF THIS TERRITORY AND THE SEARCH FOR A PEACEFUL SOLUTION IN CONFORMITY WITH THE RIGHT OF PEOPLES TO DECIDE THEIR OWN FUTURE.

YOU WILL AGREE WITH ME THAT THIS STATE OF AFFAIRS GOES COUNTER TO THE EFFORTS UNDERTAKEN BY THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY AND THAT THE SITUATION IN THE WESTERN SAHARA HAS WORSENERD AS A RESULT OF FRENCH MILITARY INTERVENTION, THIS BEING INTERFERENCE IN THE AFFAIRS OF AFRICA AND AN ADDITIONAL FACTOR OF TENSION DIRECTLY THREATENING THE STABILITY AND INDEPENDENCE OF OUR COUNTRIES.

KNOWING HOW SENSITIVE YOU ARE TO ANYTHING WHICH AFFECTS THE BASIC RIGHTS OF OUR PEOPLES AND THE CONSIDERABLE ATTENTION YOU PAY TO THE OBSERVANCE OF HUMAN RIGHTS, I AM CONVINCED THAT YOU WILL SHARE OUR CONCERNS AND ACT, AS YOU DEEM MOST APPROPRIATE, SO THAT REASON, JUSTICE AND LAW SHALL PREVAIL AND THUS BE IN A POSITION TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE STRENGTHENING OF PEACE AND SECURITY THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.

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PLEASE BE ENSURED, MR. PRESIDENT, OF MY HIGHEST CONSIDERA-
TION. HOUARI BOUMEDIENE. ENT TEXT. VANCE

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